

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO. TBD	FILING DATE 17 November 2003	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Salvatore J. Puleo Sr.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. NATREE 3.1-004US		
			EXAMINER TBD		
Preliminary Amendment Express Mail No. EV 212210041 US			<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">ART UNIT TBD</td> <td style="width: 50%;">PAGE NUMBER 12</td> </tr> </table>	ART UNIT TBD	PAGE NUMBER 12
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AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

- Please replace the abstract with the following:

A Christmas tree stand has a base for supporting the stand above a ground level and a shell having a lateral surface. The shell is disposed atop the base so as to define an inner volume and the shell houses electrical components within the inner volume. The shell has a plurality of holes disposed on a top portion of the lateral surface that provide ventilation between the inner volume and an outside environment. Further, the shell has a flange overhanging the top portion of the lateral surface so as to shield the holes. A base may also be provided for the Christmas tree stand including an elevated surface and a support structure for supporting the elevated surface above the ground level. Finally, the elevated surface may define one surface of the inner volume. Other thermodynamically efficient configurations are provided. Certain safety mechanisms are provided in relation to modular electronics platforms.